

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 EB-03 FTC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-01 L-02 CIEP-01

DRC-01 /055 W

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R 050951Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6356

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3261

LIMDIS

FOR COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE INQUIRY: COKING COAL

REF: BUCHAREST 3229

1. DURING LUNCHEON GIVEN BY CHARGE TO INTRODUCE MARTIN VAN HEUVEN, DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE DUMITRU BUTNARU MADE SPECIAL POINT OF REEMPHASIZING GOR INTEREST IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FIRM ON COKING COAL. BESIDES INFORMATION TRANSMITTED REFTEL, HE MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A) THE DECISION TO SEEK DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTERN FIRMS ON THIS PROJECT WAS CLEARED WITH MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE PATAN, AND HAS RECEIVED EXPRESS APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. BUTNARU SAID THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE APPROACHED, BUT FIRST PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO CONTACT WITH U.S. FIRMS.

B) IF SECRETARY DENT'S PLANS TO VISIT BUCHAREST ARE CONFIRMED, GOR WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSAL

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IN HIS PROGRAM. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP IN U.S. WITH DIRECT

DISCUSSIONS BY ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR MINISTRY
FOREIGN TRADE CONSTANTIN FOTA.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS PROJECT IS BEING GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY
BY GOR TO INITIATE TALKS SOON ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ARRANGE-
MENT WITH U.S. WE WOULD RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT DEPARTMENT
EXAMINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FEASIBILITY AND ESIRABILITY OF
SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH AMERICAN FIRMS, ESPEICALLY IF
SECRETARY DENT'S TRAVEL PLANS TO BUCHAREST ARE CONFIRMED.
MARTENS

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